

ISAIAH 62

Lesson 51: "Christ's Passionate Zeal for the Glory of His Bride"

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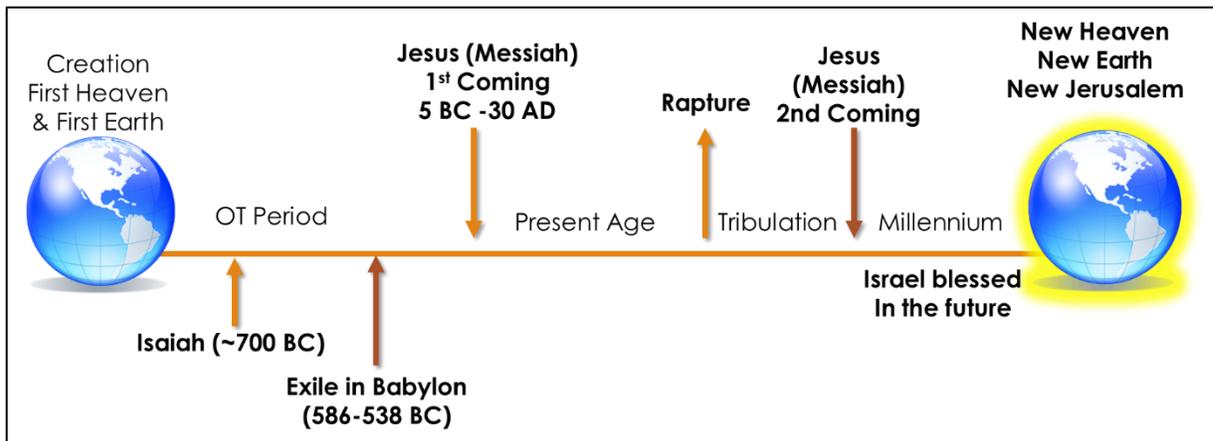


Figure 1 God's Plan of the Ages (Walvoord)

I. CONTEXT

A. MAIN IDEA

Chapter 62 is a prophecy about God's plan to ultimately bring Zion to a final state of glory.

B. KEY WORDS

1. Zion: Zion is described both as the city of David and the city of God. As the Bible progresses, the word Zion expands in scope and takes on an additional, spiritual meaning.
 - a) In the Old Testament Zion refers figuratively to Israel as the people of God (Isaiah 60:14).
 - b) In the New Testament, Zion refers to God's spiritual kingdom, including the church.
2. Hephzibah ("My delight is in her"): God's name for Jerusalem when restored to His favor (Isa. 62:4).
3. Beulah ("Married"): Israel's future name when restored to her divine Husband, Protector, and Lord (Isa. 62:4).

C. FIVE MAJOR IMPACTS OF ISAIAH'S PROPHECY.

1. Encouragement:
 - a) To the exiles in Babylon.
 - b) To the Jews in Jerusalem after the exile.
 - c) To the church in the NT.
 - d) To Christians during the future Tribulation Period.

2. Perspective: It puts a proper view of this age in perspective by showing that a glorious age (Millennium, New Jerusalem) is coming for those who belong to God.
3. Credibility: It gives give credibility to the truthfulness and accuracy of the Bible.
4. Outreach: It stimulates evangelism/missions.
5. Sovereignty: It pictures God's sovereignty and his overall plan for mankind.

II. SUMMARY

A. SOMEDAY ZION WILL BE GLORIFIED LIKE NEVER BEFORE (62:1-5).

1. Jerusalem will be given a new name.
 - a) Name changes reflect a change in status. (e.g. Abram → Abraham; Sarai → Sarah; Jacob → Israel).
 - b) The idea of a new name also extends to Christians also, in passages like Revelation 2:17 and 3:12.
2. Jerusalem will be made like a beautiful bride.
 - a) Like a bridegroom who rejoices over the bride, so shall God rejoice over Jerusalem and its inhabitants.
 - b) Israel and all Christians will then realize more fully how much the Lord loves them.
3. Hebrew marriages give additional insights:
 - a) Stage 1: Betrothal at a young age (conversion; John 3:16).
 - b) Stage 2: Marriage (the rapture; 1 Thess. 4:16-17).
 - c) Stage 3: Feast (supper of the Lamb; Rev. 19:9).
 - d) Stage 4: The bridegroom takes the bride to his father's house (John 14:1-3).

B. GOD PROMISES TO PROTECT ZION (62:6-9)

1. Zion (Jerusalem and God's people) will be protected.
2. Foreign nations will no longer dominate the city of Jerusalem or its inhabitants.
3. Though the Jews were conquered by the Babylonians, the day will come when God will make Jerusalem the praise of the earth.

C. THE SAVIOR (MESSIAH) WILL SOMEDAY COME AND OCCUPY JERUSALEM (62:10-12)

1. Jesus will bring his reward with him (cf. Rev. 22:12; 2 Cor. 5:10).
2. People are to prepare and be ready for Jesus' return¹ (cf. Parable of ten virgins, Matt. 25:1-13).
3. Someday a New Jerusalem will come down out of heaven (Rev. 21:2-3).

¹ Bible scholars are uncertain if event is the Rapture or the Second Coming.